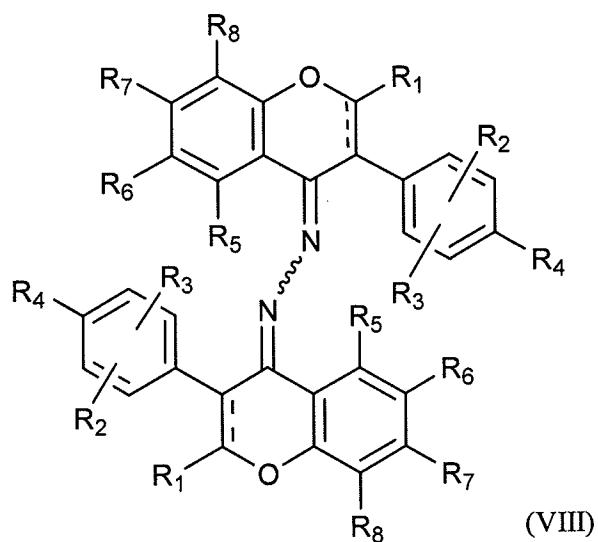
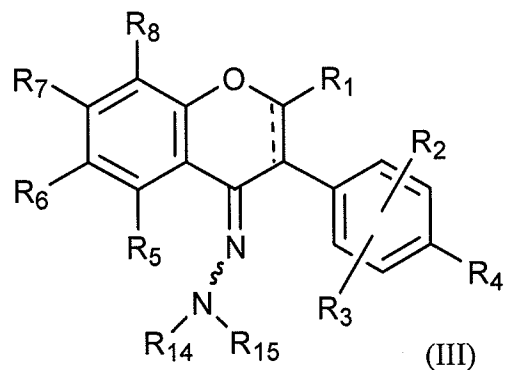


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (canceled).
2. (currently amended): A compound of formula (III) or (VIII):



wherein

R₁ is hydrogen,

R₂, R₃ and R₄ are independently hydrogen, hydroxy or OR₉,
R₇ is hydroxy,
R₅, R₆ and R₈ are independently hydrogen, hydroxy, or C₁₋₆ alkyl
R₉ is C₁₋₆ alkyl,
one of R₁₄ and R₁₅ is hydrogen,
the other one of R₁₄ and R₁₅ is hydrogen or is phenyl, benzyl, or pyridyl optionally
substituted by ~~C₁₋₆ alkyl~~ one of C₁₋₄ alkyl, nitro, OR₉, halo or cyano, and
the drawing "---" represents either a single bond or a double bond,
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. (currently amended): A compound according to claim 2, wherein
R₂, R₃, and R₄ are independently hydrogen, hydroxyl, or methoxy,
R₅ and R₆ are hydrogen,
R₈ is hydrogen or C₁₋₆ alkyl, and
the other one of R₁₄ and R₁₅ is hydrogen or is phenyl, benzyl or pyridyl optionally
substituted by one of methyl, nitro, methoxy, chloro or cyano,
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

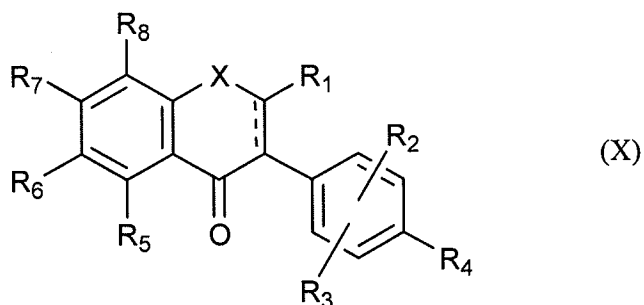
4. (currently amended): A compound according to claim 3, wherein
R₂ and R₃ are hydrogen, R₄ is hydroxy or methoxy,
R₈ is hydrogen or methyl,
R₁₄ is hydrogen and R₁₅ is phenyl optionally substituted by one of methyl, nitro, methoxy,
chloro or cyano, and

the drawing "---" represents a single bond,
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. (previously presented): A compound according to claim 4 selected from compounds (1) - (10):

- 4',7-Dihydroxyisoflavanone (phenyl)hydrazone (1)
 - 4',7-Dihydroxyisoflavanone (4-nitrophenyl)hydrazone (2)
 - 4',7-Dihydroxyisoflavanone (4-methylphenyl)hydrazone (3)
 - 4',7-Dihydroxyisoflavanone (benzyl)hydrazone (4)
 - 4',7-Dihydroxyisoflavanone (4',7-dihydroxyisoflavanone)hydrazone (5)
 - 4',7-Dihydroxyisoflavanone (2-chlorophenyl)hydrazone (6)
 - 4',7-Dihydroxyisoflavanone (3-chlorophenyl)hydrazone (7)
 - 4',7-Dihydroxyisoflavanone (4-chlorophenyl)hydrazone (8)
 - 4',7-Dihydroxyisoflavanone (2-pyridyl)hydrazone (9)
 - 4',7-Dihydroxyisoflavanone (4-cyanophenyl)hydrazone (10)
- or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (III) or (VIII) as defined in claim 2 comprising the step of reacting the 4-keto group of a compound of the formula (X):



wherein

$R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7$ and R_8 are as defined in claim 2,

X is O, and

the drawing "---" represents either a single bond or a double bond,

with a hydrazine aminating agent of formula $H_2N-NR_{14}R_{15}$,

wherein one of R_{14} and R_{15} is hydrogen, and

the other one of R_{14} and R_{15} is hydrogen or is phenyl, benzyl, or pyridyl optionally substituted by ~~C_{1-6} alkyl~~ one of C_{1-4} alkyl, nitro, OR₉, halo or cyano.

7.-15. (canceled).

16. (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition which comprises one or more compounds of formula (III) or (VIII) as defined in claim 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in association with one or more pharmaceutical carriers, excipients, auxiliaries and/or diluents.

17. (previously presented): A drink or food-stuff, which contains one or more compounds of formula (III) or (VIII) as defined in claim 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18. (canceled).

19. (currently amended): A compound selected from:

4',7-Dihydroxy-4-methylimino-isoflavan (11)

4',7-Dihydroxyisoflavanone oxime (12)

4-Amino-3',4'-dimethoxy-7-hydroxy-8-methylisoflavan (13)

~~N-[3',4'-dimethoxy-7-hydroxy-8-methyl-4-chromanyl)-acetamide~~ N-(3',4'-dimethoxy-7-hydroxy-8-methyl-4-chromanyl)-acetamide (14)

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

20. (canceled).